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Bohemian Waxwings

Throughout the early and long winter of 1931-32 we kept a tray of apples in our back yard and other apples in conspicuous places. Though I had heard the twitter of Waxwings several times in our immediate neighborhood, it was not until January 20, 1932, that Mrs. Lockerbie first observed four or five on our feed trays.

We put out fresh apples for the next day's meal and thereafter for a month, during which time they continued to visit us. The little flock grew from day to day as though each was inviting a friend until one day Mrs. Lockerbie counted fifty-two in the yard. Fifteen or twenty birds could always be observed any day during my lunch hour.

I recall counting fourteen birds perched around one tray enjoying the apples just as a company of folks would sit at table. Often I saw four birds occupying the corners of a post where I had an apple nailed to the center. I also kept a few apples in a sheltered place for emergency, but the birds did not wait for storms, generally cleaning up everything. We cut the apples in halves and unless the peel was unsound they seldom broke it, but would eat out the inside, leaving a dainty shell of apple peel.

They were very tame and were seldom disturbed by anyone walking about the yard, and on one occasion Mrs. Lockerbie hung up the week's washing on lines running between three feeding places while they flittered or twittered about or ate apples as unafraid as though they were alone in a mountain hawsberry thicket.

The amiability of both species of Waxwings is well known. Their gathering presents a beautiful scene of concord. An exception, however, to this general harmony is really the subject of this note, which centers about one single quarrelsome individual. This one was a little smaller and more plainly dressed than the others. It came first and left last, remaining about the place all day. The others came any time from nine to twelve, would feed a couple of hours and then leave, returning again in the afternoon. The odd one seemed very happy when alone, but when others arrived and started on the apples, she became greatly distressed and began to quarrel with them. Nothing could have been more plainly said than: "You get out of here, you brutes; I am an old woman; I found these apples; leave them alone." But they refused to leave, though they showed considerable annoyance at her behavior.

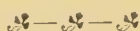
She would light in a tray of feeding birds and immediately all stopped eating, lowered their crests and heads, looked daggers, opened their mouths, displaying their red throats and uttering low grating hisses or whistles. They also raised their wings slightly as though to strike, but I do not recall seeing any strike or peck her, but I often did see her push birds out of their places. She did not stay long with one bird or group, but kept going from one to another.

When the flock left, she again resumed her air of contentment, would feed a little, preen a little, trill a little. I saw her examining a fence corner in which

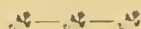
were some vines and flower stalks. I thought probably she contemplated roosting there, so I screened the corner with chicken wire as a precaution against cats. However, I don't think she roosted there, though I often saw her about the yard at dark. On two occasions I saw her depart at dusk for the hills north of the city, the nearest place of natural cover. Though she twittered as she flew, it seemed pathetic to see all alone this one of a family that loves to be with its kind.

We are grateful to have been instrumental in providing what comforts we could during those winter days, that were so hard on most of God's creatures in these parts. The Waxwings did not return during the winter of 1932-33; in fact, so far as I know, they did not come to Utah, though I saw them in considerable numbers in the upper Snake River bottoms of Idaho where there was an abundance of wild fruits. Neither did I see or hear of them being in Utah in 1933-34.

C. W. Lockerbie, Salt Lake City, Utah.



Mrs. Otis H. Smith writes under date of August 10, 1935: "Birding in Ross has always been a rare treat, but not everyone has had the privilege of banding birds of so widely divergent characteristics as the Anthony Green Heron and the Rough-winged Swallow from the same creek and nesting within a short distance of each other, the Heron in the top of an alder tree and the Swallow in a wall. I had to hunt the line to be sure I was in Ross and not San Anselmo. I banded the Rough-winged Swallow no. 34-76064 on June 29, 1935, and the Anthony Green Heron no. 35-510501 on July 5, 1935, but let my young thirteen-year-old friend tell his story of the Heron."



Anthony Green Heron

On a warm, windy afternoon in July, while fishing along the San Anselmo creek in Ross, Marin County, I saw a nest high in a alder tree. On the edge of the nest three young Anthony Green Herons were perched. A sudden gust of wind shook the tree so severely that the smallest of the three went toppling into a shallow stretch of the creek. He stood there dazed for a minute, then shook himself and started to walk out of the water. I ran over and grabbed him.

As I knew it was impossible to get him back into his nest, I took him home and dried him off, as he was still in the pin feather stage. Then I wrapped him in a warm cloth and took him to Mrs. Otis H. Smith, who banded him 35-510501.

From then on for the next ten days I was busy seining the creek for chubs to feed him. The first three days his food had to be cut up and stuffed down his throat. The next step was feeding him the whole dead fish. Then he learned to spear the whole live fish from the ground and swallowed it with one gulp. During this time I took him out of his cage occasionally and gave him flying lessons by tossing him into the air. After the eighth day he could spear the fish from a pan of water.

On the tenth day after tossing him into the air he lit in a tree and then flew off to the creek. Only four days afterwards he was turned in to the Humane Society, having been shot in the head by some boys with B B guns about a mile and a quarter from where he had been released.

Harvey Long, San Anselmo, California. August 3, 1935.



The August Field Trip was taken on Sunday, the 11th, to Tennessee Cove, Marin County, with thirteen members and five guests under the leadership of Charles A. Bryant. It was a warm day with a delightful breeze from the ocean.

Perhaps the biggest thrill of the day was the discovery of a Traill Flycatcher in nearly the same location where Mr. De Fremery found one on our 1930 trip. Several members added this species to their life-list. On our return from the

Cove, we explored, as is customary, the willows along the water course north of the road, where we flushed two Barn Owls.

I always take delight in paying my respects to all that is left of the good ship *Tennessee*. So I took Fritz Lippmann over to look at it. As we stood on the beach examining the last bit of machinery, probably part of the walking beam, showing above the ever-shifting sand, I wondered what birds flew over the wreck on that distant day and looked down upon the survivors who probably tramped over the same trail which we follow from the Cove back to Richardson Bay.

After doing considerable research work, I am able to offer the following report. On the morning of March 6, 1853, the steamship *Tennessee* with 600 passengers, 100 of whom were women and children, went ashore in a dense fog. "By happy chance, the ship went upon a small, sandy beach on both sides of which at a short distance were enormous cliffs on which, if the vessel had struck, she would have gone immediately to pieces, and probably most of those on board would have perished. As it was, the sea being smooth, the passengers were all safely landed, as well as express and mail matter."

A picture published in "The Annals of San Francisco," in 1855, shows the *Tennessee* ashore between cliffs very much as they are today. She was a side-wheeler with two masts, and Gulls are shown flying overhead. In those days the birds were probably much the same species as now. Possibly the three species of Cormorants were present as well as many Gulls and migrating shore birds. Surf Birds, their nesting places then unknown, probably searched for food over the flat rock on the north side of the Cove with Black and Ruddy Turnstones. And perhaps later in the season Pigeon Guillemots, Murres and Tufted Puffins nested in the crevices on the high cliff on the south side. Perhaps, too, Bald Eagles, now entirely absent from the region, nested high on the cliffs, while California Condors may have sailed over from Mt. Tamalpais. Who knows?

The following list of forty-nine species was noted:

Brown Pelican	Allen Hummingbird	Pileolated Warbler
Farallon Cormorant	Red-shafted Flicker	English Sparrow
California Heron	Black Phoebe	Meadowlark
Ruddy Duck	Little (Traill) Flycatcher	S. F. Red-wing Blackbird
Turkey Vulture	Coast Jay	Brewer Blackbird
Cooper Hawk	Nicasio Jay	Black-headed Grosbeak
Red-tailed Hawk	Western Crow	Common House Finch
Marsh Hawk	Nicasio Chickadee	Pine Siskin
Prairie Falcon	Coast Bush-tit	Willow Goldfinch
Desert Sparrow Hawk	Slender-billed Nuthatch	Green-backed Goldfinch
California Quail	Ruddy Wren-tit	San Francisco Towhee
Western Gull	Nicasio Wren	S. F. Brown Towhee
California Gull	Russet-backed Thrush	Bryant Sparrow
Ring-billed Gull	Western Bluebird	Lark Sparrow
Caspian Tern	Western Gnatcatcher	Nuttall Sparrow
Barn Owl	Yellow Warbler	Song Sparrow
Anna Hummingbird		

Members attending: Mr. and Mrs. Stephens; Mrs. Otis H. Smith; Misses Berg, Danz, Papina, Pringle, Uniacke; Messrs. Bremer, Bryant, Myer, C. R. Thomas; Master Fritz Lippmann. Guests: Mrs. Anabel; Mr. Squires; Scouts Caldwell, Lambert, Squires.

Audubon Notes

September Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 12th, at 8 p. m., room 19, Ferry Building.

The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Milton S. Ray, Curator of Pacific Museum, whose subject will be "Adventures and Discoveries."

Mrs. Ray will read selections from her husband's book, "The Farallone, The Painted World and Other Poems."



September Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, the 22nd (note change of date), to the bay shore at Lincoln Park, Alameda. San Francisco members will take Southern Pacific Alameda ferry at 9:45 a. m. and train to Lincoln Park Station. East Bay members may take bus in Oakland at Fourteenth and Broadway, walking through the park to the station opposite the tennis courts. Bring luncheon. If there are enough automobiles, a visit will be made to Bay Farm Island.



August Meeting: The 217th regular meeting was held on August 8th, room 19, Ferry Building, with twenty-five members and guests present. Second Vice-President Mrs. Otis H. Smith presiding.

Observations were reported as follows:

Fritz Lippmann: two Ruby-crowned Kinglets. North Lake. Golden Gate Park, July 31st (early date).

Mrs. Otis H. Smith: Ruby-crowned Kinglet, San Anselmo, June 27th (very early date).

Mrs. A. B. Stephens: Sooty Shearwaters 1000+, Ruddy Turnstones 2.

Wandering Tattlers 4, Black Turnstones, Cliff House, August 3rd.

Commander Parmenter: Cliff House, Black Turnstones, July 16th; Kingfisher, 19th; three Surf-birds, 21st; two Wandering Tattlers, 26th; Ruddy Turnstones 2, Parasitic Jaeger, August 5th; Land's End, Western Gnatcatcher, July 24th; San Mateo Bridge, Knots 10+, August 6th. Also at the bridges on:

	July 19	Aug. 6
White Pelican	15	50±
American Egret	1	4
Semipalmated Plover..	12
Black-bellied Plover.....	10	12
Hudsonian Curlew	1	4
Willetts	1000+
Yellowlegs	3	4
L. B. Dowitcher.....	75+
Godwit	500+
Avocet	100+	2
No. Phalarope	1000+	500±

The speaker for the evening was Mr. Laidlaw Williams, who has long been a resident of Carmel and has given a great deal of time and patience to the study of his subject, "Birds of the Monterey County Peninsula." He gave a list of earlier records made by such men as Beck and Loomis of the California Academy of Sciences and Professor Heath and W. K. Fisher.

He described the topography of the country, listed the habitats to be found therein and gave the names of several birds peculiar to each locality. He extended his observations to the adjacent region, with which he is equally familiar. He made special mention of the Monterey Game Refuge and the Point Lobos Reserve. The talk was illustrated with slides from his own photographs.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

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Treasurer.....	Mrs. A. B. Stephens.....	1695 Filbert St., San Francisco

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A. B. Stephens, Editor, 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco.

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Life memberships, \$50.00.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.